

# R&D LEAGUE

## MONTHLY REPORT

A Regular Distribution to the R&D League

VOLUME 6

**THANK YOU** to our partners who have been flexible, adaptable, and responsive during this very difficult time.

### COVID-19 ASSISTANCE



In response to COVID-19, our partners found innovative ways to keep 6 experiments progressing in spite of social distancing mandates **AND took on new efforts** to help the City respond:

- Unable to safely access Garbage Trucks, SwRI initially outfitted their own company vehicles with sensors to begin testing technology for the Sensors on City Vehicles project.
- USAA, SwRI and UTSA joined the local entrepreneur effort to build Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with 3-D printers
- USAA Labs and Corporate Responsibility lead virtual volunteer efforts, helping local non-profits innovate and build capacity to effectively respond to the pandemic.
- Designers and IT staff from USAA Labs are consulting City staff on streamlined processes and culture shift to support a more user-friendly website experience
- The R&D program will pivot to focus Year 2 efforts on grant opportunities as the City has an estimated 200 million dollars in budget shortfalls over the next year

### RACIAL BIAS & EQUITY

The R&D League is committed to understanding how racial bias plays a role in R&D. Here are some current questions we are asking ourselves. Welcome community feedback on this!

- Where can we utilize tools from the City's Office of Equity, such as **Equity Framework Tool**, **Indicator Report**, and **Equity Atlas**, to improve equity outcomes?
- **Where can existing experiments address equity?** For example, how can Sensors on City Vehicles address reliance on citizen reporting and under-reporting bias to more equitably allocate resources for City-wide infrastructure needs?
- **How can we evaluate data collection and algorithmic models for racial bias?** If data collection, AI models, & algorithms include inherent bias, then policy decisions based on that data will have inequitable outcomes. How are we questioning bias from the very beginning?

# PROGRESS AT-A-GLANCE

